

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 4 with the following paragraph:

“Figures ~~[[4]]~~ **4A-4D** depict~~[[s]]~~ a labeling scheme for uncoded bits of QAM symbols used with Trellis Coded Modulation.”

Please replace paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 10 with the following paragraph:

“The invention also provides an efficient labeling scheme for QAM constellation used in Trellis Coded Modulation (TCM) as depicted in ~~Figure 4~~ **Figures 4A-4D**. This labeling scheme improves the error performance of the uncoded and coded bits of the coded. The error performance of the uncoded bits is improved by dividing the constellation plane into  $2^M$  rectangular zones (M is the number of uncoded bits per symbol). In each zone all uncoded bits are identical. The uncoded bits (i.e. the labels of the above zones) are coded using a Gray code. This labeling significantly reduces the number of errors in uncoded bits in a  $d_{\min}$  error event.”